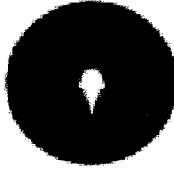


EXHIBIT 9
DATE 2/5/09
HB 74



MBA Support Statement for HB74 - Allowing the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission the discretion to include mountain lion, bear, and wolf among the species for which the commission may designate archery seasons (amends Section 87-1-304, MCA).

Sponsor: Rep. Kendall Van Dyk

Mr. Chariman and members of the committee:

My name is Steve Kamps and I represent the Montana Bowhunters Association.

We support HB74 as it lays the groundwork for potential additional hunting opportunities during archery seasons and would have little impact to the species involved should archery seasons for these species be created in the future. Recent bear studies have demonstrated archery hunting does not increase sow-cub vulnerability. Mountain lion encounters and harvests would be minimal due to the elusive nature of the lions. Wolves currently cannot be hunted, but would be a valued archery trophy once regulations allow a hunting season.

HB74 simply grants the Commission the authority to designate archery seasons for the species listed and helps complete the list of big game species that archery seasons could be available for. Actual season dates and quotas would be determined during the Tentative process and would be subject to public comment. The MBA urges passage of HB74.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.